

## A Word from the Dean



What an event-filled month October was!

We began in high gear with the dedication of the Sidney E. Frank Hall for Life Sciences, an event featuring

MIT President Susan Hockfield as the keynote speaker and the recipient of an honorary degree. This is an important moment indeed in Brown's history for I have no doubt as to the quality or creativity of the research that will take place within this new state-of-the-art facility. The timing seemed particularly apt with the recent announcement that a Brown alumnus, Craig C. Mello '82, received the 2006 Nobel Prize for Medicine jointly with Andrew Z. Fire, for the discovery of RNA interference - gene silencing by double-stranded RNA. It was especially moving to hear members of Mr. Frank's family speaking of him and his connection to Brown.

It was also at this event that Cathy Halstead, Mr. Frank's daughter, announced the Sidney E. Frank Fellowship for Life Sciences, a \$3 million gift from the Sidney E. Frank Foundation in support of predoctoral training within the Division of Biology and Medicine. The income from this generous endowment will provide Divisional fellowships for first-year graduate students, a key component of the Plan for Academic Enrichment.

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## Medical Student Affairs

Philip Gruppuso

Associate Dean for Medical Education

One of the areas I have had the pleasure to focus on during the past year has been the issue of interdisciplinary practice. As anyone who has worked in a medical care setting knows, teamwork among health care professionals is critical to quality of patient care. About a year ago, a group that included Láura Vares from Central RI AHEC, Jane Williams, Dean of the Nursing School at Rhode Island College, and myself came together to discuss curriculum planning around the issue of interdisciplinary practice. We agreed to jointly fund four summer assistantships so that nursing and medical students could come together to carry out preliminary curriculum planning.

This past summer, two BMS students, Matt Brumbaugh and Zac Ginsberg, and two Rhode Island College nursing students, Julia Clinker and Claire Rodriguez-Annoni, took part in a joint curriculum pilot project. As outlined in a report prepared at the end of the summer, they defined interprofessional education as occurring when health care professionals learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and quality of care. They were able to assemble an impressive literature review documenting the effectiveness of interprofessional curricula in promoting improved patient care, patient safety and quality of patient education. They defined the barriers to collaboration, including the challenge of bringing together students from divergent educational systems and the "turf" issues that are too often apparent in our health care system. They formulated specific plans for curricular components, including a clinical interprofessional

training experience (nursing and medical students living for a time in each other's professional shoes) and a proposal for theme-based case discussions (HIV/AIDS, women's health, oncology...). The group also proposed that a forum be convened to explore media representations and the reinforcement of medical and nursing stereotypes. ("You're so smart you should have been a \_\_\_\_\_.")

As a next step, Láura Vares will be soliciting the involvement of a new group of students, two nursing and two medical, to implement a first panel discussion/interdisciplinary forum. As was the case last summer, a stipend will be provided to support the students' participation. I encourage all of you who are interested in participating to be in contact with Ms. Vares when the opportunity is announced so that the development of this important and innovative aspect of our curriculum can continue.

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## Student Affairs

Alexandra Morang  
Director

Class of 2007: Congratulations on the completion of all those residency applications and best of luck with the interviews! If you would like to schedule a mock interview, just call 863-1641 to make an appointment.

We will be co-sponsoring an Interview Workshop with Drs. Tammaro, McGarry and Cyr in early November from 6:30 - 8:00 PM at the BMC. Dinner will be provided and more details will follow via the class listserv.

The Graduation Committee will be meeting this month to discuss plans for commencement 2007. If you would like to get involved in this exciting and important committee, please call 863-2441.

Class of 2009: SAVE THE DATE!! The Brown/Dartmouth Orientation Weekend will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> to welcome the Dartmouth students in the MD Class of 2009. We will host a welcome dinner on Friday night and a full day of programs on Saturday afternoon. More details to follow!

Class of 2010: Did you enjoy orientation this year? Do you have ideas for future orientations? The Committee for Orientation 2011 will be meeting in late November to discuss plans for next year. Please call 863-2441 if you would like to get involved.

## Curriculum Affairs

Dick Dollase  
Director

On-Line Evaluation for Preclinical Courses: For the first time, students are able to complete evaluations of first-year courses on line. Using OASIS, our new Web-based computer data management system, students completed mid-term evaluations for the course sections of Bio 363: Integrated Medical Sciences: Scientific Foundations of Medicine, Histology, Anatomy and Bio 360: Doctoring I. Whenever feasible, the feedback received from students will be used by the course leaders to improve teaching and learning in the various courses and course sections. Final evaluations of the IMS course sections and the Doctoring course will be administered near the end of the fall semester. Beginning in the spring semester, it is anticipated that first-year course faculty will also be evaluated on line.

New Policy on Distributing Examinations to First-Year Students: The Medical Curriculum Committee approved a new administration policy on distributing examinations to the class of '10 and beyond. Students now will receive their answer sheet with correct and incorrect answers indicated along with the general test results. After the test has been graded, a class meeting will be held at which the examination, itself, will be distributed for review by students. The course leader(s) will also be available at the meeting to answer any questions or concerns that students may have about the test.

At the end of the meeting, the examination will be collected and stored in the Office of Curriculum Affairs. Students may also request an individual meeting with the course leader, a teacher assistant or a tutor to go over the examination in greater depth.

## Admissions and Financial Aid

Kathy Baer  
Director

Thirty-nine students from the linkage programs at Bryn Mawr College, Columbia University, and Goucher College attended our annual Postbaccalaureate Visiting Day on September 29. The afternoon program consisted of presentations on the curriculum, the Doctoring course, financial aid and admissions, international health opportunities, and medical students' community involvement. Thanks to Phil Gruppuso, Alicia Monroe, and Mark Lurie, who provided students with perspectives on teaching and learning at Brown. As always, we thank a stellar cast of students—Jeremy Boyd, Saira Alimohamed, Rajiv Kumar, Kate Schulze, and Jack Rusley—for adding their invaluable perspectives as students in Doctoring and as actively involved members of the community. As one student noted on the evaluation, "they seem like amazing and very talented individuals who are great people." Thanks also to Cliff Voigt, Josh Lakin, Kate Schulze, and Elizabeth Hutton, who led tours of the campus facilities and guided everyone to the concluding reception at the Faculty Club. The reception gave prospective applicants further opportunity to engage current postbac medical students and MD Admissions Committee members in an informal and enjoyable forum.

PLME seniors attended an AMCAS application informational session on October 12, 2006. Barbara Fuller, Associate Director of Admissions, demonstrated the on-line application process on the AMCAS website and provided the students with

## research symposium

"Seeking New Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease"

Guest Speaker: Paul S. Aisen, MD

Wednesday, November 15th 4:30-6:30 p.m. Holiday Inn - Downtown.

Symposium is free, but registration is required.

401-421-0008 or email Sarah.Ferrara@alz.org

guidelines. Hilary Sweigart has distributed the three-page AMCAS procedures handout via the listserv, but if you have further questions, please use the AMCAS help documents or call the help line: (202) 828-0600.

Please remember the procedural steps and deadlines below.

1. Initiate an AMCAS application in order to receive an AMCAS ID and email the AMCAS ID to Hayden Reiss, Admissions Coordinator ([Hayden\\_Reiss@brown.edu](mailto:Hayden_Reiss@brown.edu)) before October 30, 2006.

2. After November 1, you must complete and submit your online AMCAS application AND print/complete all "Transcript Request Forms" for institutions you listed in section 2, "Schools Attended." You must do this before December 1, 2006.

3. You must have mailed or submitted all AAMC Transcript Request Forms to Brown and other institutions before December 15, 2006.

Please note that ALL PLME seniors (and PLME students on leave) must complete the AMCAS application unless you have made definite plans to defer admission to Brown Medical School.

## Office of Women in Medicine

Deb Abeshaus

Director

This month, a reception for physician mentors and student mentees paired through the Women in Medicine Mentor Program will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the Brown Faculty Club. We hope that you can attend this special gathering for introductions, networking and refreshments. Please RSVP to [officeofwomeninmedicine@brown.edu](mailto:officeofwomeninmedicine@brown.edu). We welcome you to participate in the WIM mentor program - it's not too late. Please e-mail your interests to us or for more information call the office at 863-2450/7960.

As part of the Women in Medicine Professional Development Series, 2006-07,

the Office will sponsor a program on Executive Time Management – Mastering Workload, Energy and Priorities, on November 9, 2006, 8:15–10:00 a.m. in the Brown Faculty Club. Marilyn Paul, MBA, Ph.D. will be our guest speaker. Dr. Paul will offer time management and organizational practices. She will also address how to operate with a multitude of demands and how we can flourish within a context and culture of "overdoing it." To register for the program, please visit the Office of Women in Medicine's website and link to "What's New."

The Dr. Elise Coletta Annual Lecture sponsored by the Rhode Island Medical Women's Association (RIMWA) will be held on November 9, 2006. The agenda will include a reception at 6:00 p.m. and a guest lecture at 6:30 p.m. by Dr. Elizabeth Laposata, RIMWA President and former Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Rhode Island. A dinner will be held at 7:15 p.m. Dr. Laposata will speak on: "Medical Malpractice: Who Sues and Why?" The program will take place at 3 Steeple Street in Providence. For more information, please contact Ms. Megan Turcotte at 401.331.3207. The registration fee for RIMWA members is \$10.00 and the fee for medical students is \$5.00.

## PLME

Julianne Ip, Associate Dean

Hilary Sweigart, PLME Manager

Freshmen were provided with an excellent overview of the relationship between a geriatrician and her patient, a retired nurse, by Dr. Ana Tuya on October 25. Their presentation of long-term care offered an interesting contrast to the sometimes short-term relationships inherent in neurosurgery (WWP of September w. Dr. Deus Cielo). Thank you to co-chairs, Alma Guerrero and Bo Wong, for facilitating this semester's presentations. They are working on next semester's talks. So if you have any suggestions, please contact them directly. Reminder:

## november calendar

November 2  
Women in Medicine Reception for Physician Mentors  
Brown Faculty Club, 5:00-6:30 p.m..

November 4 & 5  
Brown/Dartmouth Orientation Weekend

November 9  
Executive Time Management - Mastering Workload, Energy & Priorities Speaker, Marilyn Paul, MBA, PhD  
Brown Faculty Club, 8:15 - 10:00 a.m.

November 9  
"How Cancer Crossed the Color Line: Race and Disease in America"  
Smith-Buonanno 106, 4:00pm

November 9  
Dr. Elise Coletta Annual Lecture  
"Medical Malpractice, Who Sues and Why?"  
3 Steeple St., Providence, 6:00 p.m.

Freshman class photos can be ordered from Ms. Joan Fullerton in Arnold 124.

Sophomores mark your calendar for the EDUCATIONAL PLAN MEETING on Wednesday, November 29, 11:30–1:00 p.m. in Chancellor's Dining Room. Seniors, you should have provided your AMCAS ID to [Hayden\\_Reiss@Brown.edu](mailto:Hayden_Reiss@Brown.edu) by October 30 and now be completing your application and requesting transcripts.

Medicine In Action Program (MIAP) has been providing enriching experiences for several PLME students this semester. If you haven't visited the web site to look at the list of RI physicians, check out [http://bms.brown.edu/plme/MIAP\\_plme.html](http://bms.brown.edu/plme/MIAP_plme.html).

Brown Medical School is pleased to an-

# opportunities

The 2007 AMA Foundation Excellence in Medicine Leadership Award is granted to an exceptional medical professional who goes beyond the medical practice to positively influence health care. The awards are presented to medical students, residents, and young physicians to recognize their strong, non-clinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service and/or education. All awards are self-nominated, with applicants responsible for submitting all appropriate materials and documentation. For more information or to apply visit [www.amafoundation.org/go/excellence](http://www.amafoundation.org/go/excellence). Submission deadline is Nov. 17, 2006.

The McKnight Technological Innovations in Neuroscience Award is to encourage and support scientists working on the development of novel and creative approaches to understanding brain function. Investigators must be U.S. Citizens conducting research at institutions within the U.S. and must be in tenured or tenured-track, faculty positions. Funds may be used towards a variety of research activities, but not the recipients salary. Up to four awards are made annually, each providing \$100,000 for two years. To learn more visit [www.mcknight.org/neuroscience](http://www.mcknight.org/neuroscience). Deadline is December 1, 2006.

The CDC Experience is a one-year fellowship in applied epidemiology for medical students. The program is designed to increase the pool of physicians with a population health perspective. Each year, eight competitively selected medical students from around the country spend 10-12 months at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. At CDC they gain an in-depth understanding of applied epidemiology, and the role of epidemiology in medicine and health. Application deadline is December with the fellowship to begin the following August. To learn more an apply visit [www.cdcfoundation.org/thecdcexperience](http://www.cdcfoundation.org/thecdcexperience)

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is offering a variety of Research Grants and Awards for physicians and faculty with deadlines to apply on December 15, 2006. To learn more visit [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org).

The National Osteoporosis Foundation 2007 Research Grants Program is offering three one-year grants of \$50,000 each. Open to investigators for support of clinical or basic research related to the epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis. Applicants must have an M.D. or Ph.D. Deadline for letter of intent is December 1, 2006, with requests for full research proposals made by December 22, 2006. Submission deadlines for complete proposals is February 20, 2007. To learn more visit [www.nof.org/grants](http://www.nof.org/grants).

The Women's Dermatologic Society through the Medical Student Awareness Program is offering grants of up to \$2000 to qualifying medical students interested in learning more about dermatology by working with a leading dermatologist in private practice or at the university level. Applicants must provide a detailed budget request upon submission of the application. The annual application deadline is December 31, 2006. Candidates selected to be funded will be notified by March 1, 2007. To learn more visit [www.womensderm.org](http://www.womensderm.org).

The Human Values in Medicine Program of the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine is sponsoring its 25th annual poetry writing competition during the 2006-07 academic year. The competition is open to students attending schools of medicine or osteopathy in the U.S. Poems must be written in English and can reflect medical as well as non-medical subjects. Each poem must be original, unpublished (except for college publications), and must not have won a contest at the time of submission. Not to exceed 750 words. Entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2006. To learn more visit [www.neoucom.edu](http://www.neoucom.edu)

The Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy is offering a one-year, degree granting, full-time fellowship from July 2007-June 2008 which leads to an MPH at Harvard School of Public Health. To learn more visit <http://www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/fellows-faculty/cfhuf/index.htm> Application deadline is January 2, 2007.

nounce three opportunities for PLME research in the summer of 2007.

1. Summer Research Assistantships are made available annually on a competitive basis to students enrolled in the PLME or Brown Medical School. This is an excellent opportunity to become engaged in a research project under the supervision and mentorship of a Brown faculty member in the areas of biomedical science, social and behavioral science, or community medicine and public health. Visit [http://bms.brown.edu/plme/SRA\\_PLME.html](http://bms.brown.edu/plme/SRA_PLME.html) for more information and application materials.

2. Summer Research Assistantships—Emergency Medicine. Beginning in 2007, up to three (3) Summer Research Assistantships in Emergency Medicine (SRA-EM) will be made available annually on a competitive basis to students enrolled in the PLME or Brown Medical School. Interested students must contact only the EM faculty who have listed their research on the web site at [http://bms.brown.edu/plme/SRA\\_EM.htm](http://bms.brown.edu/plme/SRA_EM.htm), where you can also download the application materials.

3. Summer Fellowship for the Arts and Humanities in Medicine expands opportunities for student scholarship into new interdisciplinary areas and recognizes the value of the arts and humanities in medicine. Please note if you are interested in applying, you will need to identify a faculty sponsor/mentor at Brown. Visit <http://bms.brown.edu/plme/A&H2.html> to see a list of previously funded projects, and to download the application materials.

Support for a 10-week summer assistantship or fellowship is \$3000 for PLME students. Other employment is usually not authorized during the defined work-week tenure of the assistantship, and academic credit cannot be obtained for work performed under this form of support. It is permissible to use the research done during an assistantship as an element of a thesis to be presented toward a degree, and to obtain academic credit

if the student decides to develop and continue the project as independent research during the academic year.

## PLME Senate

Carly Seidman  
Co-President

As the semester progresses, the PLME Senate has sponsored many exciting programs and more are still yet to come!

The Whole Physician Program, held on September 27, was a well-attended success! Dr. David Katz of the Yale University School of Medicine, Yale Prevention Research Center, and ABC News Medical Contributor, spoke about the American obesity epidemic. He also introduced some of the nutritional strategies discussed in his newest publication, *The Flavor Point Diet*. Many thanks to Dr. Katz and kudos to Whole Physician Chair, Larry Kwon, for making this special event possible! For follow-up or more information on Dr. Katz, please visit [www.david-katzmd.com](http://www.david-katzmd.com).

Our last Whole Patient Program of the semester was held on October 27 and featured Dr. Ana Tuya, geriatrician. Many thanks to Dr. Tuya and her patient, as well as Alma Guerrero and Bo Wang for organizing two wonderful programs this fall semester! First years—if there are any specialties you are interested in learning more about in the spring, do not hesitate to email Alma or Bo with your suggestions!

The Community Service Committee worked jointly with the Medical School Senate to help organize the Bone Marrow Match Donor Drive, held in Sayles Hall on October 24. Thanks to community service co-chairs Annie Wang and Angela Yang, as well as all members of the community service committee, for all of your hard work!

Chemistry 33 study groups have been underway. Please contact 2009 class rep-

resentative, Rosalynn Vega, if you are interested in joining one of these groups.

Events planned for this month will include a presentation/Q&A by Dean Philip Gruppuso regarding new developments in the medical school curriculum—it is very important for all PLMEs, especially seniors, to receive this information. This event will be held on November 8 from 7:00-8:00 p.m., location TBA (an email will be sent). Pizza will be served.

On a final note, to all those who ordered apparel—your orders should be arriving shortly—an email will be sent to you when your items are ready to be picked up. Thanks for helping to support the Senate! Wishing you all continued success as the semester progresses and a happy, healthy Thanksgiving!

## Student Health Council

Adam de Havenon

Caffeine is the most popular psychoactive drug in the world. Whether imbibed as coffee, tea, yerba mate, chocolate or the guarana berry, almost all cultures have a form of caffeine delivery. It is present in the leaves, beans, seeds and fruit of more than 60 plants, where caffeine acts as a toxin against insects. Luckily for humans, it's effects are not so deleterious and may actually be beneficial.

A recent review of medical literature by Health Canada concluded that moderate caffeine intake of up to 400mg/day was not associated with adverse health effects in healthy adults. The AMA agrees, saying that "moderate tea or coffee drinkers [300mg/day] probably need have no concern for their health relative to their caffeine consumption provided other lifestyle habits (diet, alcohol consumption) are moderate, as well." Jane Higdon and Baldz Frei's 2005 article "Coffee and Health: A Review of Recent Human Research" concluded that coffee consumption may

## Student Health Council

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help prevent diabetes type 2, Parkinson's disease and liver disease. Tea, particularly green tea, is also linked to health benefits such as prevention of cancer, hypercholesterolemia, arteriosclerosis, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. While not all research corroborates these effects, a 2006 review by Naunihal T. Zaveri in the journal Life Sciences showed that the evidence is promising. Of course, caffeine should be avoided by some groups that would be particularly sensitive, such as hypertensive patients, pregnant women and children.

The most obvious benefit of caffeine is that it acts as a stimulant in the central nervous system, promoting alertness and reducing fatigue. It increases performance on cognitive and physical endurance tests, not to mention mid-term exams! For most individuals, the main problem with caffeine ingestion is the manner of dosing. Anecdotal experience and research supports the idea that more doses of a smaller amount provides an equalized distribution of the benefits. As such, you might want to consult the table below for dosages, keeping in mind that a daily maximum of 300mg is a sensible guideline.

Double espresso (2oz)	Brewed coffee (8 oz)
45-100 mg	60-120 mg
Instant coffee (8 oz)	Tea - black (8 oz)
70 mg	45 mg
Tea - green (8 oz)	Tea - white (8 oz)
20 mg	15 mg
Coca Cola (12 oz can)	
34 mg	

## the pulse

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## A Word from the Dean

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We have also honored and welcomed some very bright lights in the world of medicine. Special mention is being made of Brown alumnae and women's health activist Nawal M. Nour, MD '88, who received the University's prestigious William Rogers Award. Ugandan HIV/AIDS and human rights advocate Dr. Julian Atim was also recognized at a recent school-wide reception given in collaboration with Physicians for Human Rights.

Parents Weekend, as is the custom, featured a series of festive occasions culminating in the eighth annual Ceremony of Commitment to Medicine of the class of 2010 with our own Jeffrey M. Borkan, MD, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, as faculty speaker and Pebble M. Kranz '91 MD'07 as student speaker. It is always inspiring to see another class of first-year students receive their first white coat and thus symbolically signify commitment to the medical profession.

Finally, I encourage you to visit the website dedicated to the ongoing Strategic Planning effort of Brown Medical School at [http://biomed.brown.edu/strategic\\_planning/](http://biomed.brown.edu/strategic_planning/), wherein you will find several documents related to this important initiative.

I wish all of you a happy and bountiful Thanksgiving.

My very best,

